



Colorado State Conservation Board
Meeting Minutes
Avon, CO

Meeting was called to order by President Unwin November 16, 2015. At the request of President Unwin, those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Harold Unwin: Lower Arkansas River Watershed
Karen Salapich: Upper Arkansas River Watershed
Vernon Lerette: San Juan River Watershed
Karin Utterback-Normann: North Platte, Yampa, White River Watersheds
Margaret Lenz: Member-at-Large
Chester Zwirn: Republican River & Lower South Platte River Watersheds
Danny Neufeld: Rio Grande River Watershed
Joe Lindsay: Upper South Platte River Watershed

Other Attendees

Cindy Lair: State Conservation Board Program Manager
Tammra Straub: Conservation Specialist
Nikki Reed: Conservation Specialist
Mark Cronquist: Conservation Specialist
Karen Wolf: Conservation Specialist
Rachel Theler: Conservation Specialist

Absent

Larry Sweeney: Colorado River & Gunnison-Dolores River Watersheds

Meeting Summary of Motions

APPROVAL OF ATTENDANCE: **Vernon Lerette** moved to approve **Larry Sweeney's** absence. **Karen Salapich** seconded, all in favor. Motion passed.

AGENDA: **Karen Salapich** moved to add State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) discussion, **Joe Lindsay** seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

MEETING MINUTES: **Joe Lindsay** moved to approve the minutes of the September 1-2, 2015 board meeting as presented, **Vernon Lerette** seconded. All in favor, motion passed.



CSCB NOMINATION COMMITTEE: Karen Salapich, Chair, moved to keep the same officers: Harold Unwin as President, Vernon Lerette as Vice President and Margaret Lenz as Secretary. Joe Lindsay seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

MATCHING GRANTS UPDATE: Vernon Lerette moved for the matching grant program to follow NRCS specs where practical but local districts can adjust where necessary. Chester Zwirn seconded. Discussion. Margaret Lenz moved to table the vote until the next meeting, Joe Lindsay seconded. All in favor, motion passed to table the vote.

Approval of Attendance

Vernon Lerette moved to approve Larry Sweeney's absence. Karen Salapich seconded, all in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of Agenda

President Harold Unwin requested additions to the agenda. Karen Salapich moved to add State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) discussion, Joe Lindsay seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Joe Lindsay moved to approve the minutes of the September 1-2, 2015 board meeting as presented, Vernon Lerette seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

CACD Meeting Recap

There was board discussion on the joint board meeting with CACD and how they can help clarify the roles between the two boards for the ease of the districts and partners. The CSCB will maintain the "District in Good Standing" enforcement and encourage CACD to investigate having a 5 year strategic plan for their organization. This plan could also help districts understand CACD's relevance and goals which could potentially increase membership.

Margaret Lenz asked staff to look in to what can CSCB do for districts that fall out of good standing. What happens if they do and don't seek CSCB help, then what? CSCB staff will look into the legal aspects and report back to the board.

SHPO Discussion

President Harold Unwin stated that the State Historic Preservation Office's program could have direct impacts on our matching grant program and there is concern about the impact on landowners. Discussion ensued if this should be reviewed legally. Cindy Lair clarified that the matching grant program seems to be more personnel issue than process and Tammra Straub's



work on revising the cost-share forms for NRCS approval/acceptance should work. **Cindy Lair** provided some background on SHPO nationally and has given support of CACD to move forward on looking into this. The board discussed approaching NRCS with questions; however, this was postponed until CSCB can further discuss the issues with Clint Evans, NRCS State Conservationist.

CSCB Nomination Committee

Karen Salapich, Chair, moved to keep the same officers: **Harold Unwin** as President, **Vernon Lerette** as Vice President and **Margaret Lenz** as Secretary. **Joe Lindsay** seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

DCT Update

Tammra Straub updated the board that all payments have been sent out since the last meeting. NRCS has amended the contract for another year and a new contract with the regional NRCS contract group is still unknown. **Tammra Straub** reviewed the spending status handout and clarified that DCT program numbers/enrollments is pretty steady without much fluctuation. The board was reminded that there are currently no requirements or limits that a district have one DCT employee.

Matching Grants Update

Tammra Straub passed out packets for each board member that contained an updated spreadsheet on potential funding. There are still issues with the state accounting system, CORE. Per the board's previous voting, the top 6 districts will be notified and then others (on down the list) as funding is available. It is difficult to know how much will roll over because some districts wait until the very end and submit final reports/invoices for payment. Some money does get rolled over, but that does not get spent until **Tammra Straub** verifies that DCT is covered.

Also handed out were the matching grant application guidelines. **Tammra Straub** will email the group the guidelines once more along with a reminder to review them and the operational guidelines. CSCB will review and provide changes/edits for discussion to be approved at the next board meeting.

There was discussion on various DCT/MG program criteria. **Vernon Lerette** moved for the matching grant program to follow NRCS specs where practical but local districts can adjust where necessary. **Chester Zwirn** seconded. Discussion about logistics of implementations, keeping good standards and getting conservation on the ground completed. **Margaret Lenz** moved to table the vote until the next meeting, **Joe Lindsay** seconded. All in favor, motion passed to table the vote.



Discussion on various fence requirements, stock tanks, etc.

Bootstrap Update

Nikki Reed provided the update that the 3 districts who were offered the final acceptance are working through statement of work plans with their field specialist. Those districts are: Morgan, Mesa and Mosca-Hooper. Field specialists updated the board that all 3 districts are finalizing the plans and they will be submitted soon. **Mark Cronquist** updated that Flagler successfully completed their program from last year.

Mined Land Reclamation Board

Karin Utterback-Normann provided updates to the CSC Board. There are quite a few mines with issues listed in the state and the problem of funding is ongoing. **Karin Utterback-Normann** is constantly providing comments and she welcomes the CSC Board to either attend with her or ask her any questions. **Vernon Lerette** thanked **Karin Utterback-Normann** for her time representing CSCB on the MLR board and the updates.

Budget

Cindy Lair reviewed the CORE issues and dealing with limited or no budgets and that there are no updates from **Harold Unwin's** meeting with the Commissioner. Already, one quarter into this fiscal year we are going to need an increase since our operating budget has not increased in several years.

The certification program is presenting wool vests that are embroidered to districts that have had their entire board pass the certification modules. The board was in consensus that districts should not pay for these and since we have already purchased them, they should just be awarded.

There was discussion on corporate sponsors as a way to purchase more vests in the future. **Nikki Reed** will check with Department of Agriculture's policy on this.

2016 Meetings

Nikki Reed will research and depending on cost/budget look into the following options:

January 26-27 (pending budget – Broomfield)

July 11-12 (Byers at the Bluffs)

September 7-8 Steamboat

November – CACD south conference



Direct Assistance Volunteers

Nikki Reed asked for board volunteers to help review the comments from districts and reviewers on the current evaluation process. **Danny Neufeld** and **Harold Unwin** volunteered. **Margaret Lenz** will pitch in where she can.

Meeting adjourned 3:40pm.